



## **BCP Service of the Word**

Let us pray. [BCP p 622](#)

**Lord, teach us to pray.**

**Lord, keep our thoughts from wandering.**

**Lord, cleanse our hearts that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him. [Ps 96:9](#)

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found,  
call ye upon him while he is near. [Isaiah 55:6](#)

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**O Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned greatly against thee in  
thought, and word, and deed, and have done that which is wrong in thy sight.  
Forgive us our sins, and give us grace always to resist temptation and to do thy  
holy will; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that we  
may be cleansed from all our Sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord, open thou our lips;

**And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us;

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen**

Praise ye the Lord;

**The Lord's name be praised.**

### **1st Reading: Acts 17:22-31**

*Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Psalm 66:7-19**

7 O PRAISE our God, ye peoples,/ **and make the  
voice of his praise to be heard;**

8 Who holdeth our soul in life, / **and suffereth  
not our feet to slip.**

- 9 For thou, O God, hast proved us: / **thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.**
- 10 Thou didst bring us into the snare, / **and didst lay trouble upon our loins.**
- 11 Thou didst suffer men to ride over our heads: / **we went through fire and water, but thou didst bring us out into a place of freedom.**
- 12 I WILL go into thine house with burnt offerings: / **I will pay thee my vows,**
- 13 Which I promised with my lips, / **and spake with my mouth when I was in trouble.**
- 14 I will offer unto thee fat burnt sacrifices, with the incense of rams: / **I will offer bullocks and goats.**
- 15 O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God, / **and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.**
- 16 I called unto him with my mouth, / **and gave him praises with my tongue.**
- 17 If I had regarded wickedness in my heart, / **the Lord would not have heard me.**
- 18 But verily God hath heard me, / **and considered the voice of my prayer.**
- 19 Praised be God, who hath not cast out my prayer, / **nor turned his mercy from me.**

## **2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during*

*the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 14:15-21**

*'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.*

*'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Please join me in reciting the Apostles' Creed. [BCP p 624](#)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary,**

**Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried:**

**He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead;**

**He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of**

**God the Father Almighty;**

**From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church;  
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen**

The Lord be with you;

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. Amen**

Collect of the day

Let us pray.

**Three-fold God of love,**

**you invite us to abide in you.**

**May we follow the Spirit of truth,**

**so that through us your commanding love**

**may speak to the heart of the world;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

O Lord God, who hast bidden light to shine out of darkness, and who hast again wakened us to praise thee for thy goodness and to ask for thy grace: Accept now the offering of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant unto us all such requests as may be acceptable to thy holy will. Make us to live as children of the light, and heirs of thy everlasting kingdom. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy mercies, thy whole Church, all who join with us in prayer, and all in our family, wherever they may be, who stand in need of thine aid. Pour down upon us all the riches of thy grace, so that, redeemed in soul and body, and steadfast in faith, we may ever praise thy wonderful and holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *BCP p 729*

*please name those who are in need of prayer*

Almighty God and heavenly Father, who hast in wisdom seen fit to withhold from us at this time thine accustomed bounty; We most humbly praise thee for still bestowing upon us far more than we deserve. Make us truly thankful for our many blessings; increase in us more and more a lively faith and love, and a humble submission to thy blessed will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *BCP p 619*

O Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life we may never forget thee, but remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *BCP p 731*

*please remember to mail in your offering to the church or  
consider using the Pre-Authorized Debit system*

Let us pray.

**Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send down thy heavenly blessing upon thy Church in this Parish, that all its members may dwell together in unity and love. Keep far from us all self-will and discord. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness, and enable them faithfully to dispense thy holy Word and Sacraments, to bring again the outcasts, and to seek the lost. Grant that we may so receive their ministrations, and use thy means of grace, that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory and the advancement of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** *BCP p 736*

O God, Most High and Holy Three in One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: We offer to thee this day Ourselves, our souls and bodies, To be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; To whom be all praise and glory. **Amen** *BCP p 729*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen**

Readings for next Sunday – May 24, 2020

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 93;

Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53.